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EVENING BULLETIN

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Evening Paper Published
on the Hawaiian Islands.
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STAMP COLLECTION SOLD

HOW DR. C. H. WETMORE HELPED
"OUT THE HILO CHURCH."

Donated His Valuable Collection of
Hawaiian and Other Stamps—Purchased by Chas. Hustace Jr.

Within the past few days there has been a sale of valuable Hawaiian stamps made in this city, the like of which may never occur again unless T. G. Thrum, W. M. Giffard, C. A. Brown, F. L. Stolz and Chas. Hustace Jr. should dispose of their almost unrivaled collections.

Desiring to help in the furnishing of the new foreign church recently erected at Hilo, of which city he is one of the oldest and most respected residents, Dr. Charles H. Wetmore donated a small collection of stamps which he has had in his own possession since 1872 (although some of the rarer stamps have been owned by members of his family since the early '50s), to the committee who had charge of the raising of funds for the church, with instructions to sell it and use the money as they saw fit. The good old doctor, he is now in his 77th year, had very little idea what his stamps were worth although he knew some of them were very rare and valuable. He was doubtless as much pleased as the church committee was when they received a sum of money for them which was far in advance of their expectations.

Knowing that there would be no market for such stamps in Hilo, the committee sent them to James A. Kennedy, bookkeeper of the Honolulu Iron Works, with instructions to dispose of them to the best advantage, either in this city or San Francisco. The stamps were contained in a little old-fashioned album, smelling musty with age, and there were probably not more than 300 of them all told. But among them was one page of old Hawaiian stamps, which in the hands of many collectors would have been priceless, money could not have purchased them. Mr. Kennedy had heard enough about rare Hawaiian stamps to have this little collection passed on by experts before selling it, and he accordingly asked Messrs. T. G. Thrum, W. M. Giffard, Chas. Hustace Jr. and others to take a look at it. They examined the rare stamps with magnifying glasses and other means used by advanced collectors to test stamps and pronounced them unmistakably genuine, and what is more splendid specimens. E. Stanley Gibbons, the great London dealer, also saw the stamps and made an offer for them on the spot, which was taken under advisement. Chas. Hustace Jr. had made two or three offers for the stamps which had not been accepted. He was considering the advisability of making another and larger offer when he was notified by Mr. Kennedy that he had received directions to dispose of the stamps forthwith to the highest bidder. Mr. Hustace made up his mind that the stamps should not go out of the country, as he needed several of them to fill out his already large collection of Hawaiian stamps. Without knowing what others had offered he named a figure which was at once accepted by Mr. Kennedy. What that was the BULLETIN is not permitted to state, but it cannot be expressed with less than four figures.

Hearing of the purchase, a representative of this paper, who used to be a stamp fiend and has not yet entirely gotten over it, called on Mr. Hustace and asked to be allowed to see the stamps purchased. He readily consented and opened up the book at the Hawaiian page. The reporter's

eyes bulged out, for he knew enough about stamps to know that Mr. Hustace had struck a small bonanza in his purchase.

"There," said the stamp collector, pointing to two stamps, "is what I purchased the collection for. I consider those two stamps worth more than what I paid for the whole. I just needed them for my collection, but never dreamed of being able to get them."

One of the stamps was a 5 cent of the original issue of 1852 and the other a 13 cent variety of the same issue, both absolutely perfect specimens. These two stamps were catalogued by the Scott Stamp and Coin Company of New York last year at \$700 and \$450 respectively. This year no price is given in the catalogue, as they are no longer obtainable except by a chance such as the present.

"These two stamps," said Mr. Hustace, "are to be seen in very few collections anywhere. Mr. Thrum has got them and two or three others here but I am told the others are not such fine specimens as these; they certainly can be no finer."

"Here is another stamp that I have been after for a long time," he continued, pointing to a 13 cent vermilion with Kamehameha III head, surcharged with a large figure 5 in ms., "there has always been more or less doubt about the genuineness of this stamp thus surcharged but it has been cleared up lately. It has been catalogued by dealers and then left out for a time. It has lately been restored to the list again and is now priced at \$30. It has been proven conclusively, to my mind at least, that these stamps were used in the Hilo office at a time when they ran out of 5 cent stamps. The figure 5 was written in ink on the thirteen cent stamp. Now look at this stamp. You will observe that it is plainly postmarked San Fra. and that the postmark is over and not under the written figure 5. This shows conclusively that the letter which carried that stamp was sent from Hilo by some sailing vessel and postmarked on arrival at San Francisco. There is no doubt that it has been used for postage and is genuine. There are only a few of these stamps known to be in existence but I have never seen any with the post mark on. The postmark on this stamp not only proves the genuineness of this particular stamp but it goes to clear up the doubt about those with no postmark on by showing that such a stamp has actually been used."

Among the four pages filled with Hawaiian stamps in this little album were a number of the old numerals, now valued at prices ranging from \$8 to \$20. Among them the reporter noticed a 1 cent blue and a 1 cent black with plain borders, one 5 cent blue on blue paper with plain border, one light blue 2 cent on white paper and eight 2 cent black on colored paper, all of these being fine specimens. There are four 2 cent rose of the 1862 issue lithographed, one of which is a remarkably fine specimen, and a dark blue 5 cent Kamehameha V. head on blue paper, the above being only a few of the choicest varieties.

In the collection are probably 200 foreign stamps, whose value Mr. Hustace has not yet had time to ascertain.

"There is one thing that pleases me about these stamps more than anything else" said Mr. Hustace, taking up the subject of the Hawaiian stamps again, "it is their undoubted genuineness. The sum I paid for these stamps was a considerable one and I should not have felt like paying it out if there had been the slightest doubt about the two stamps of the original issue of 1852. I consider it extremely fortunate that the valuable expert opinion of E. Stanley Gibbons was obtained on these, as well as that of the best philatelic talent here. Had there been any doubt at the time of the purchase, there certainly can be none now, as I have since had the following letter placed in my hands by Mr. Kennedy:

HILO, HAWAII, Feb. 17, 1897.

The person who purchased the book of letter stamps recently at Honolulu will find full descriptions of Hawaiian letter stamps in Thrum's 1878 Hawaiian Annual on pages 44, 5, 6 and 7. Also in Thrum's 1894 Annual on pages 99, 100, 102, 106, 7 and 8, and on intervening and following pages. Two cent stamps with a large figure 2 cancelled diagonally some, what as I have marked above were thus cancelled by Rev. E. Bond, postmaster at Kohala, Hawaii, in former days. The 13 cent letter stamp was sent to my late wife's friends in Massachusetts sometime in the eighteen fifties. Mrs. Wetmore found them there on envelopes in 1872. I think the 5 on one or two of them was put on them with pen to show that the Hawaiian postage was cancelled.

The letter stamp with some of the letters of the word San Francisco on it was, with one other, considered worthless by H. M. Whitney, Esq., until he saw this one last year. He then said it was evidently put on a letter at Hilo and forwarded from Hilo to the Coast and therefore a genuine and valuable cancelled stamp. It is evidently one of the stamps gathered in New England in 1872.

CHAS. H. WETMORE, M.D.

After perusing this letter Mr. Hustace invited H. M. Whitney to again examine the stamps. He did so and has corroborated the statements made in Dr. Wetmore's letter. Mr. Whitney was the first postmaster-general of Hawaii and served in that capacity for a number of years. He is a recognized authority on the early issues of Hawaiian stamps connected with the Hawaiian postal service in its early days.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

Proposed to Start in a Whaling Ship
in September.

At a meeting of the South Australian branch of the Geographical Society held at Adelaide a few days ago, C. E. Borchgrevink made a statement with regard to his proposed expedition to the Antarctic. He states that he intends to ask for the support of the geographical societies of the various colonies, and hopes to obtain a small subsidy from the Government. He also intends to invite subscriptions, and deliver several lectures on the subject. He has been advised by the Acting Premier, Mr. Holder, to proceed to Hobart and lay the matter before the Australian Premiers. He proposes to either rent or buy a whaler, and to leave London at the latest at the end of September, and to take 12 followers with him, including scientific men, who should be landed with the necessary huts, dogs, sledges and provisions. He hopes to reach the south magnetic pole, and states that it would be of great importance to navigation to make observations there. He expects to be away about a year, but will take provisions for two years.

The president of the branch society has promised him every support possible.

INCrimINATING EVIDENCE.

A Scrap of Paper Found with the Australian Murderer.

A London dispatch to the Australian Star says:

When Butler was searched at San Francisco a scrap of paper was found in his valise which stated that Captain Lee Weller's will was in the possession of Mr. Donaldson, solicitor of London.

Mr. Donaldson has been interviewed on the subject. He says he possesses the will of Captain Lee Weller. It was made in 1880. He also says that the last letter he received from Lee Weller was from Sydney under date October 26. In this letter Lee Weller wrote to Mr. Donaldson: "I leave Sydney with a man tomorrow to prospect for gold, first at Glenbrook, then at Lithgow and Bathurst."

THE DOMINION CAPITOL

DAMAGED BY FIRE A QUARTER
OF A MILLION.

Believed to Have Been the Work of
an Incendiary—Aid from
Montreal.

OTTAWA, February 12. — The Dominion Parliament buildings in this city narrowly escaped destruction by the fire which started yesterday afternoon and burned until after midnight. The loss is in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars. The fire is supposed to have been of incendiary origin.

The fire was fierce when discovered in the afternoon on the top floor of the west block of the Parliament buildings, south of the Mackenzie tower, and quickly the department fire brigade was brought into requisition. Several pieces of hose were laid and a rush was made for the hydrants, when it was discovered that they were all frozen. An alarm from the city was then sounded and the city fire brigade turned out.

In the meantime the fire was spreading, eating its way along the roof toward the south. Then streams were put on from the thirty hydrants, when the department hose burst and the city department hose had to be depended upon altogether.

By this time the fire had so increased that it was bursting out through the windows, through the roof and along the edge between the roof and the walls. It ate along with terrific rapidity, and soon the roof of the Mackenzie wing was one mass of flames and smoke.

The general alarm was struck and the whole fire brigade turned out and was soon at active work. Streams were poured upon the flames from all directions. The fire continued to spread, however, and soon the tower on the southwest corner fell. The center tower was next destroyed, and the flames, continuing to eat their way, reached the next large tower, commenced to lick that, and finally had it completely engulfed in ruin.

The local Fire Department for hours was powerless to subdue the flames and an appeal was sent to Montreal for help, but before the extra engines arrived the fire was under control.

The spectacle of the blazing buildings was a grand one, and the vicinity was crowded with thousands of people.

The old western department building, where the fire was fiercest, was damaged \$100,000 by the fire. The upper floors with the mansard roof were completely burned out, but the main offices on the second and third floors are all safe, the fire not having gotten through the concrete floors.

Much damage was done by water, but no important departmental documents were destroyed.

The offices destroyed are those of the Public Works, Department of Marine and Fisheries and Mounted Police. Lack of pressure, bad hose, frozen hydrants and a variety of causes contributed to the poor work of the Fire Brigade.

The construction of a modern building in place of the one wrecked will cost not less than \$250,000.

In 1858 Ottawa was selected as the seat of the Canadian Government. Canada then consisted of the two provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Dominion of Canada came into existence in 1867. Ottawa is a city of only about 40,000 inhabitants, but its Government buildings would have done honor to any capital. They were noble examples of Italian-Gothic architecture, and had few rivals in beauty on the continent. They formed three sides of a quadrangle and were situated on an eminence

150 feet above the Ottawa river. Covering an area of nearly four acres, their cost was \$4,000,000. They were substantial and yet extremely ornamental in appearance. The arches of the doors and windows were of red sandstone, and the columns and arches of the legislative chambers of marble. The roofs were rendered attractive by means of variously colored slates, and the towers and pinnacles were adorned with iron trellis-work. The interior decorations of the edifices were also very rich and tasteful, including the Vice-regal canopy and throne, a marble statue and portrait of Queen Victoria, and full-length likenesses of George III and Queen Charlotte by Sir Joshua Reynolds. The library of the Government was a very handsome and valuable portion of this structure, and contained more than 100,000 volumes.

Warren Goodale's Funeral.

A large number of the older residents of the city attended the funeral of the late Warren Goodale at Central Union church yesterday afternoon. The religious services were conducted by Rev. D. P. Birnie, Rev. S. E. Bishop and Rev. O. H. Gulick. A special quartette, composed of Mrs. A. F. Judd, Mrs. Walbridge, Albert Judd and W. Forbes, furnished the music. During the services Rev. S. E. Bishop made an address in eulogy of his late friend.

After the services at the church were ended the Masons took charge of the remains and escorted them to the Nuanu cemetery, headed by the government band and a platoon of police, where the usual Masonic ceremonies were carried out. The body was placed in the Paty vault to await the arrival of the deceased's son from Hawaii as to its future disposition.

Death of a Governor.

Sir J. B. Thurston and family arrived at Sydney in the Miowera on February 3. He was suffering from a complication of diseases and on the advice of his physician proceeded for Melbourne by steamer, as being better for him than the railway journey. He was going to Melbourne for special treatment, but he died on the voyage. Sir J. B. Thurston was Governor of Fiji, also British Commissioner for the Western Pacific, and regarded as an unusually able administrator. His loss is a great one to the British Government, as well as to the Polynesian communities of which he was the virtual ruler.

At the Hawaiian Hotel.

The Government band will give a concert at the Hawaiian hotel this evening, of which the following is the program:

PART I.

March—National Penitents..... Sousa
Overture—Jubal..... Flotow
Polka—Cairo..... Lee
Selection—Nabucco..... Verdi

PART II.

Cornet Solo—The Specialty..... Hazel
Mr. Charles Kreuter.
Medley—Plantation Song..... Coterno
Waltz—Fantasia..... Coote
Galop—The Planters..... Fricke
Hawaii Fandango.

Lace Sale Continues.

The big lace sale at Jordan's No. 10 store is still on. No such prices were ever quoted in Honolulu before, and the Honolulu ladies are daily laying in a supply. Goods that formerly sold at \$1 are offered at 25c.; those that sold for 50c. reduced to 5c. and 10c. In fact, a clean cut of 75 per cent all along the lace line has been made. Call and make your own selection. They are all on one large table in the middle of the store.

Art muslins and printed Lappel muslin, Victoria Lawns, India Linens and Persian Lawns are some of the goods that arrived per late steamers and will be sold at the very lowest prices for cash at Kerr's.